

# Accessibility compliance resources

CMAA is committed to assisting our regional partners improve accessibility in our region. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), people with disabilities must have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from state and local government programs, services, and activities.

These featured resources can help local governments understand their legal obligations, find tools to assess their compliance with the ADA, and connect with regional organizations that help implement accessibility improvements.

## Getting started: general resources for understanding ADA compliance

[ADA National Network](#): This organizational network provides "information, guidance and training on how to implement the Americans with Disabilities Act." The network consists of 10 regional ADA centers located throughout the U.S. The [Great Lakes ADA Center](#) serves the northeastern Illinois region.

[Guidance & Resource Materials from the U.S. Department of Justice \(ADA.gov\)](#): This webpage provides information on a range of topics for people with disabilities, state and local governments, and businesses. Topics include, but are not limited to, accessible polling places, access for 911 and emergency services, effective communication, service animals, and an ADA update primer for state and local governments.

[Guide for Small Towns](#): This U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) resource clarifies legal obligations for small towns and includes case studies of typical issues for program accessibility. It also provides towns with examples of best practices for accessible design.

[Project Civic Access](#): This web archive lists settlement agreement between the DOJ and counties, cities, and towns in all 50 states.

[Title II Action Guide](#): This resource from New England's ADA Center provides an implementation guide for state and local governments for improving ADA compliance.

[Title II Tool Kit](#) – DOJ's ADA Best Practices Tool Kit is "designed to teach state and local government officials how to identify and fix problems that prevent people with disabilities from gaining equal access to state and local government programs, services and facilities."

## What resources are available to ADA coordinators?

An ADA Coordinator is a professional that facilitates compliance with the ADA Title II regulations and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. An ADA Coordinator is required by any state or local government entity that employs fifty or more employees, and all organizations and businesses that receive federal funding.

[ADA Coordinator Training Certification Program \(ACTCP\)](#): ACTCP is offered through the University of Missouri. This program meets the training and professional needs of ADA coordinators. ACTCP certification “verifies that participants have completed training in required content areas and have a depth of knowledge in ADA issues.” The program offers online trainings and conferences.

[Title II Tutorial \(Web based course\)](#): This self-paced online tutorial by the ADA National Network covers the core concepts of Title II of the ADA. It is a valuable educational tool for understanding the role of ADA coordinators.

## Who provides training on disability awareness?

Disability awareness is the practice of knowing, acknowledging, and accepting individuals’ experiences as they relate to disability. The following organizations offer trainings on accessible programs, services, and activities.

[JJ’s List](#): JJ’s List is a communications and marketing organization that helps businesses meet the needs of customers or employees with disabilities. They offer interactive disability awareness trainings to help organizations communicate effectively and appropriately with customers, co-workers, and potential hires.

[Open Doors Organization](#): This nonprofit trains organizations on how to succeed in the disability market, while empowering the disability community in the consumer market.

[Vision for Change](#): This non-profit organization provides training opportunities on mental health awareness for public/private businesses.

## Who can help make my organization more accessible?

[Chicago Hearing Society](#): This nonprofit organization provides communication access, hearing and assistive technologies, and support services for persons who are deaf, deafblind, and hard-of-hearing. Services include sign language interpretation, captioning, audiology service, and community outreach and advocacy.

[Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind](#): This social service organization serves the blind, visually impaired, disabled and veteran communities. They partner with northeastern Illinois employers, local governments, community organizations, and more to help enhance accessibility and provide high-quality public services.

[Horizons for the Blind](#): This nonprofit organization is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people who are blind or visually impaired. Services include braille transcription, large print correspondence, audio versions of billing statements/invoices, “touch-a-bill” service, accessible business cards, and more.

[Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf](#): This national certifying body of sign language interpreters features an online registry to search for and hire sign language interpreters.

## What groups support the disability community in northeast Illinois?

The following organizations are valuable partners in connecting with the disability community to better understand their needs and desires.

[Centers for Independent Living \(CIL\)](#): CILs are nonprofit agencies that provide independent living programs for people with disabilities. Typical activities include independent living skills training, peer counseling, advocacy and living transition assistance.

[Progress Center for Independent Living](#) - This the CIL that serves suburban Cook County.

[Access Living](#): This is the CIL that serves Chicago.

[Achieving Independence and Mobility](#) - This is the CIL that serves DuPage, Kane, and Kendall Counties.

[Disability Resource Center](#) - This is the CIL that serves Will County.

[Lake County Center for Independent Living](#) - This is the CIL that serves Lake and McHenry County.